

us, it is equally important that we heed the suffering being caused by the current high prices. Let us help ease the increasing burden of fuel costs and help ensure that these farmers remain one of the backbones of our country and our country's economy.

STATEMENT OF INTRODUCTION
HeLP AMERICA ACT

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, health care promotion programs have the potential to improve health, improve quality of life, reduce health care costs, and boost productivity. Unfortunately, a very small percentage of health care spending is devoted to health promotion. The national investment in prevention is currently estimated to be less than 5 percent of annual health care costs. Our Nation needs a new approach to healthcare—one that puts prevention front and center.

That is why I rise today to introduce the Healthier Lifestyles and Prevention America Act, also known as the HeLP America Act. My legislation is very similar to S. 1074, a bill of the same name, which was introduced by Senator HARKIN. Both Senator HARKIN's bill and my bill are designed to reduce health care costs and improve health outcomes by reorienting our nation's health care system towards prevention, wellness, and self care.

The HeLP America Act is a comprehensive approach to prevention and health promotion. It provides tools and incentives for schools to improve their nutrition programs. It provides tax incentives for employers to implement wellness programs. It provides grants for communities to implement activities to prevent and reduce the incidence of obesity, and chronic diseases associated with this condition. My bill also gives the FDA the authority to regulate tobacco products, and requires nutrition labeling on menus in chain restaurants. These are just a few of the provisions included in the legislation designed to attack the problem of skyrocketing health care costs associated with the increasing rates of obesity, diabetes, and other chronic illnesses.

Adaptable lifestyle factors such as smoking, sedentary lifestyle, poor nutrition, unmanaged stress, and obesity account for approximately half of premature deaths in the United States. Spending on chronic diseases related to lifestyle and other preventable diseases account for an estimated 75 percent of total health care spending. And Mr. Speaker, as you and all of our colleagues know, our nation's total amount of health care spending is no small sum. In fact, according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, total health care spending in 2004 was \$1.8 trillion. Furthermore Mr. Speaker, CMS estimates that this number will double by 2014. For those keeping score at home, that means in 2014 total health care expenditures will be \$3.6 trillion.

With a greater focus on prevention, we will be able to greatly reduce the number of individuals who suffer from all types of ailments, including diabetes, cancer, heart disease, and strokes just to name a few areas where pre-

ventive health care can make the difference. It will improve health outcomes, improve people's lives, and help cut down on our exploding healthcare expenditures. As is noted in the findings of this legislation, per capita health spending in the United States is 56 percent greater than the median for countries in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. Mr. Speaker, this is unacceptable. We need to get more bang for our healthcare buck and we need to look no further than focusing on prevention. As the saying goes, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in seeking a new and more effective approach to the health of our nation by cosponsoring the HeLP Act.

RECOGNIZING THE STENNIS CONGRESSIONAL INTERN PROGRAM

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the participants in the Stennis Congressional Intern Program. For many years, the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service has enhanced the experience of a select group of summer interns working in congressional offices. The interns are provided with an insiders view of Congress through meetings with senior staff members and other experts to discuss the relationships Congress has with the legislative and executive branches, the media, the public and the private sector.

The program is a joint effort of the Stennis Center and a group of current and former senior staff members who serve as Senior Stennis Fellows. These insiders draw on their experience and expertise in creating the program and participating in sessions with the interns.

The outstanding interns selected to participate are chosen based on their college record, community service background and interest in a career in public service. This year, 30 interns, most of them juniors and seniors in college, have been working in personal and committee offices in the House and Senate.

I congratulate these students for being chosen to participate in this exceptional program, and I thank the Stennis Center and the senior fellows for providing such a unique experience for these interns and for encouraging them to consider a future career in public service.

This year's participants are David Benson-Staebler of St. Olaf College, interning in the office of Representative JIM OBERSTAR; Zeke Berzoff-Cohen of Goucher College, interning in the office of Representative JOHN OLIVER; Elizabeth Brady of the University of North Colorado, interning in the office of Senator MIKE ENZI; Tenisha Callender of Loyola University, interning in the office of Representative JAMES MCGOVERN; Paul Cenoz of the University of Southern California, interning in the office of Representative JOHN CAMPBELL; Jessica Cohen of Syracuse University, interning in the office of Senator HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON; Rachel Dillard of Clemson University, interning in the office of Senator JIM DEMINT; Stephanie Dreyer of Boston University, interning in the office of Senator CHARLES SCHUMER; Brittany Erickson of the University of Pennsylvania, in-

terning in the office of Senator KENT CONRAD; David Evans of Wake Forest University, interning in the office of Senator MEL MARTINEZ; Jason Feld of the University of Pennsylvania, interning in the office of Representative LYNN WOOLSEY; Whitney Fogg of Yale University, interning in the office of Representative CONNIE MACK; Clark Fonda of the University of Southern California, interning in the office of Representative JOHN CAMPBELL; Sarah Hackett of Dickinson College, interning in the office of Senator PATRICK LEAHY; JC Hendrickson of American University, interning in the office of Representative MAURICE HINCHEY; Andrew Hill of Vanderbilt University, interning in the office of Representative CHARLIE NORWOOD; Abby Kirkbride of John Brown University, interning in the office of Senator MIKE ENZI; Anne Kouri of Creighton University, interning in the office of Representative RAY LAHOOD; Mark Ladley of The Citadel, interning in the office of Representative ALLYSON SCHWARTZ; Cassandra Long of the University of Central Florida, interning in the office of Senator BILL NELSON; Jonathan Lowrey of Northwest Missouri State, interning in the office of Representative SAM GRAVES; Meghan McCarthy of the College of William and Mary, interning in the office of Representative RUSH HOLT; Chris Nielsen of the University of South Dakota, interning in the office of Senator TIM JOHNSON; Edward Parkinson of the University of Witwatersrand, interning in the House Committee on Homeland Security; Sara Rafferty of the University of Oklahoma, interning in the office of Representative PHIL ENGLISH; Joshua Root of Cornell University, interning in the office of Representative JOHN OLIVER; Eric Sandberg-Zakian of Yale University, interning in the office of Representative RUSH HOLT; Matt Seager of the College of Charleston, interning in the office of Senator PATRICK LEAHY; Eli Sevcik-Timberg of Wesleyan University, interning in the office of Representative MEL WATT; and Elizabeth Tran of Boston University, interning in the office of Representative NEIL ABERCROMBIE.

IN HONOR OF ROY D. HOKE—32 YEARS OF SERVICE AND COMMITMENT

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who has spent the last 32 years of his life serving this body in the Paint Shop. Roy D. Hoke has become a friend of mine and a friend of my office staff. Through his years he has worked to make each and every one of our offices more beautiful—not for us, but for our constituents and honored guests. Rarely have I seen a man more dedicated to his work, and more filled with pride at a job well-done.

He has served in the House under six U.S. Presidents, and 16 sessions of Congress. Prior to his service in the House, Mr. Hoke served America in the U.S. Army in Vietnam.

This year, Roy Hoke has become very close to my staff. My office took part in the Housewide program to refurbish our offices, and Roy played a major role in painting my office. He was always there to make it look perfect. Roy was never satisfied with his job—he

kept coming back to make it look better. After 32 years, he was not done making the House of Representatives a more wonderful place to work.

On Friday, May 26, 2006 Roy was doing his work as he always does. He was in my office touching-up when the security alarms went off and the Capitol Police ordered the building locked-down. Roy spent the next six hours in my office with my staff, sharing in conversation, and Coca-Cola and peanuts from my home state of Georgia. Although I was not in the building, my staff tells me that Roy was a joy to be around that day. No one enjoyed the unfortunate situation that developed that day, but Roy was an individual who made the hours pass by more smoothly. He was unflinching in his manner and helped to keep a startled office calm—even as the frightening circumstances hit close to home.

Since that day in May, my office has truly had a new friend. He has become a regular visitor and his constant smile will be missed. Roy's hard work and dedication are rare traits. We thank him for his years of service to our Nation, to this House, and we wish him luck and God speed in the next phase of his life.

RECOGNIZING THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF UKRAINE'S INDEPENDENCE

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on August 24, Ukraine will celebrate the 15th anniversary of its independence. As we continue to strengthen relations with allies around the world, the importance of a democratic Ukraine cannot be overstated.

Since the fall of the Soviet Union, Ukraine has made steady progress toward the creation of democratic institutions and a free-market economy. While past political instability proved challenging to the Ukrainian economy, reforms implemented under the leadership of President Viktor Yushchenko have brought greater success and prosperity to the people of Ukraine. I was honored to attend President Yushchenko's historic speech before a Joint Session of Congress last April.

Moreover, Ukraine has cultivated a civil society, showing greater respect for human rights, maintaining peaceful relationships with its neighbors, and investing in its citizens' prosperity.

I am very grateful that my home church, the First Presbyterian Church of Columbia, South Carolina, has entered into a strong and vibrant partnership with Maximovicha Baptist Church in Vinnitsa, Ukraine. Both churches are promoting exchanges of citizens who, sharing their experiences are promoting democracy. The inspiring heritage and culture of Ukraine is being appreciated by the people of South Carolina. The United States is proud to call Ukraine a friend. We will continue to seek Ukraine's support in world affairs and remain committed to helping the people of Ukraine compete in the global economy for the increased prosperity of its citizens.

RECOGNIZING HEARTLAND HEALTH

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Heartland Health of Saint Joseph, Missouri. Heartland Health has been recognized as a strong advocate for women in the workplace and has been chosen to receive the YWCA Employer of Excellence Award.

Heartland Health has been recognized by the YWCA as one of the best places to work in the St. Joseph area. Heartland maintains a flexible work environment that bases advancement on employee performance. As a result, many women have been able to obtain positions in the senior leadership of the organization. Heartland Health is very supportive of families and has developed programs to help working mothers and assist in continuing education. These are benefits that have produced a very committed and productive workforce.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Heartland Health. Heartland has developed into a business that manages to serve employees as well as the community. I am honored to represent Heartland and its employees in the United States Congress.

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN ON ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the founding of the National Organization for Women (NOW), our Nation's paramount champion of women's rights.

The National Organization for Women has been a pioneer in the fight for women's equality and is one of our Nation's foremost institutions for social justice and social change. For the past 40 years, NOW has been at the forefront of every major effort to advance women's rights and promote equality between the sexes.

The National Organization for Women was founded in 1966 with the \$5 contributions of 28 women. These women came together in recognition of the need to bring women into equal partnership with men as part of a worldwide human rights movement. In the last 40 years, NOW has expanded this vision to local and campus chapters in all 50 states and the District of Columbia and grown its membership to roughly 500,000.

As the largest feminist organization in the United States, NOW's continued success is due to its leaders' commitment to innovative and diverse avenues of activism. From local rallies and mass marches to political lobbying and Supreme Court battles, NOW works to achieve advancement for women. Its current primary concerns are promoting passage of the Equal Rights Amendment, eradication of violence against women, championing reproductive freedom and other women's health

issues, opposition to racism and bigotry against lesbians and gays and advocating for economic and educational equality.

Since 1967, NOW has dedicated itself to passage of the Equal Rights Amendment. The organization tirelessly led efforts to lobby Congress for the amendment's passage until both Houses ratified the ERA in 1971. NOW then led the campaign for ratification in the states and fought for the extension of the amendment's deadline.

Since 1969, NOW has brought lawsuits to our Nation's courts to fight sex discrimination in the workplace. In one of the first cases to apply Title VII of the Civil Rights Act to a sex discrimination case, NOW won women access to positions previously denied to them because of biased and unnecessary strength tests.

Recognizing that economic security means little to women who are not secure in their homes, NOW pioneered the founding of battered women's shelters and rape crisis centers. By organizing the first Take Back the Night rallies, NOW activists provided women with a platform to confront threats of violence and empowered them to speak out against their offenders. In 1994, NOW's efforts to end women's victimization culminated in the passage of the Violence Against Women Act.

Since its founding, NOW has led the battle for women's reproductive freedom. NOW was the first national organization to call for the legalization of abortion and has committed itself to safeguarding the right to choose secured by *Roe v. Wade*. For 20 years NOW fought to use federal anti-racketeering laws to protect abortion clinics and their clients from harassment by militant anti-abortionists. In 2004, NOW cosponsored the March for Women's Lives to demonstrate Americans unequivocal support for women's reproductive rights. The march drew 1.15 million people to Washington, D.C. for the largest civil rights demonstration in U.S. history.

NOW was an early and vocal supporter of lesbian rights. NOW activists supported the rights of lesbians and their families in *Belmont v. Belmont*, the landmark case that awarded a lesbian mother custody of her children. Rosemary Dempsey, the defendant, later served as NOW's Vice President of Action. In 1975, lesbian rights became one of NOW's priority issues and has since been the theme of two of its national conferences.

Opposed to bigotry and discrimination of all kinds, NOW has also been a champion and defender of affirmative action policies. In 1996, 50,000 activists gathered in San Francisco in defense of affirmative action for NOW's March to Fight the Right. NOW has also adopted a hiring policy that reflects its dedication to diversity and commitment to eradicating racial disparities in the work place.

Today, NOW's President, Kim Gandy, follows in the footsteps of the organization's inaugural president, the late Betty Friedan. Under Ms. Gandy's leadership, NOW remains committed to the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment and has risen to the unique challenges of our time. Advocating for pay equity, affordable quality daycare, women-friendly workplaces, and a fair minimum wage, NOW, with unfaltering determination, continues to lead our country on the march towards women's equality.

Mr. Speaker, as the National Organization for Women celebrates 40 years as our country's preeminent voice for the advancement of